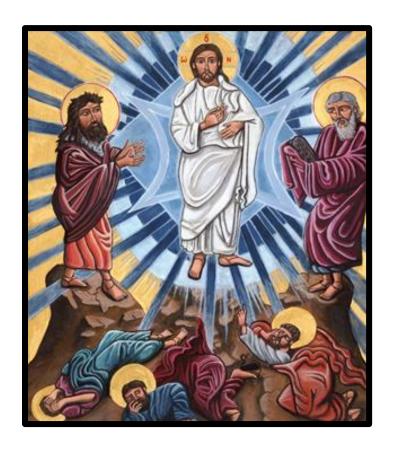
Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Transfiguration of our Lord

Mach 2, 2025 10:15 am Worship Service Pastor Brandon Johns

the

plain.

BELL RINGING

GATHFRING LITANY

O Lord, you have called us and brought us to this sacred place.

It is good for us to be here.

You have gathered us here and led us apart from the world.

Help us to be present with you in this moment.

You have appeared in majesty beyond human understanding.

It is good for us to be here.

You have revealed your splendor here and given us a glimpse of the divine.

Transform our fear into reverence and trust.

You have shone the radiance of God as the Word Incarnate.

It is good for us to be here.

You have spoken to us here and taught us in the Way.

Enable our hearts to listen and to love.

You have encompassed us with your own brilliant light.

It is good for us to be here.

but

You have transfigured us here and yet the fullness of your glory awaits.

Empower us to follow you back down the mountain and to dwell with you always.

GATHERING HYMN: How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



since you bid us leave the mount, come with us

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Lord, Here Am I

Jay Althouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded. 35 the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 99 (Read Responsively)

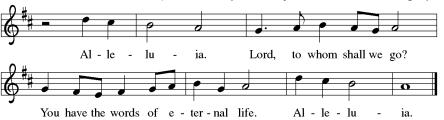
- ¹The Lord is king; let the people tremble.
 - The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- ² The Lord, great in Zion, is high above all peoples.
- ³ Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.
- ⁴ O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- ⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool; God is the Holy One.
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O Lord, they called upon you, and you answered them,
- ⁷ you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.
- ⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- ⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God's holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*The assembly stands, if able, to welcome the gospel.*)



GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

The holy gospel according to Luke, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

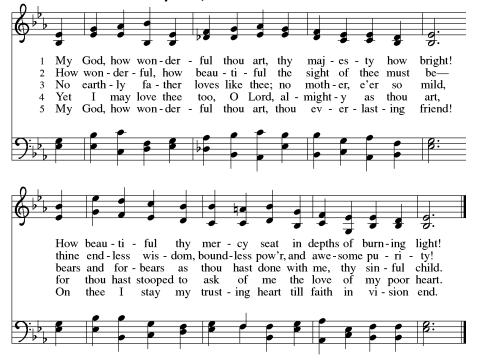
²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God. *This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: My God, How Wonderful Thou Art



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863 Music: DUNDEE, Psalter, Edinburgh, 1615

THE BURIAL OF THE ALLELUIA

- Reader: I heard a great voice of many people in heaven saying, Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power be to the Lord our God. And again they said, Alleluia!
- People: And the twenty-four elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God who sat on the throne. And they said, Amen! Alleluia!
- Reader: I heard what sounded like the voice of a great multitude. It was like the sound of many waters. It was like the sound of mighty thunder. And it said, "Alleluia! The Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"
- People: Alleluia! The Lord does reign! He is clothed with majesty.
 Alleluia!
- Reader: Alleluia! Give praise to the Lord our God and worship Him, for He is holy. Alleluia!
- People: Alleluia! Give praise to the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill, for He is holy. Rejoice in Him and give thanks as a remembrance of His holiness. Alleluia!
- Pastor: The Lord is indeed King of Heaven, but is He the King of our hearts?
- Reader: I looked and saw a great multitude, impossible to number, people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands.

 They shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. Alleluia!"

(Service continues with congregation singing Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones on next page)



Pastor: Are your minds set on God's righteousness?

People: Our mouths say we are.

Pastor: But do your lives show this? God forbid that we should approach Him with our mouths and lips alone and not have our hearts in it!

People: Does this mean we should stop singing our Alleluias?

Pastor: There is a time to laugh and a time to weep. A time to dance and a time to mourn. Bring forth acts that are suitable signs of repentance. Remember that the sacrifices of God are a humble spirit. It is a humble and contrite heart God does not despise.

Reader: It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Who may abide the day of His coming? Who shall stand
when He appears? At the time of harvest and threshing He
will gather the wheat into the barn, but the chaff will be
burned. The day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night.
When men say, "Peace" and all things are safe, then
judgment will come on them. Brothers and sisters, take
warning: While there is still time set to work before the night
comes. Let us walk as children of the Light. Do we not
believe in the Light? Let us remember that though our sins be
as scarlet, they shall be made white as snow. Let us repent
and return to Him who is merciful and forgiving. Let us take
His yoke upon us and learn of Him. His yoke is easy and His
burden is light.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

(Service continues with congregation singing Alleluia, Song of Gladness on next page)



Alleluia, Song of Gladness



Pastor: I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: 'Happy are the dead who die in the faith of Christ! Henceforth,' says the Spirit, 'They may rest their labors.'"

So says the Church of its ALLELUIA. Today it dies until with Christ it rises at His glorious resurrection. When He died, He died to sin, once for all. Living as He lives, He lives to God. In the same way you regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus.

People: (As ALLELUIA banner is taken from chancel) If you, O Lord, remember our sins, Lord who shall stand? Out of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord, Lord hear my voice. Let your ear be open to the voice of my supplication. If you, O Lord, remember our sins, Lord who could stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be praised. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word do I trust. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning. More than those who watch for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is boundless redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his sin. Give glory to the Father Almighty, to His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord, and the Spirit who gives life to all things, now and forever. Amen. If you, O Lord, remember our sins, Lord who could stand?

Pastor: Until that day, when Christ's resurrection is celebrated with joy and gladness, we commit our joyful "Alleluia" to God who gave it.

People: O God, look with favor on your people gathered here. We know that we have sinned and deserved your judgment, yet we look to you for mercy. Spare us, as you have spared your people in the past. During Lent help us to re-order our lives so that others can see your presence. We ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*.

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others.

The response for each petition is: God of grace, hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

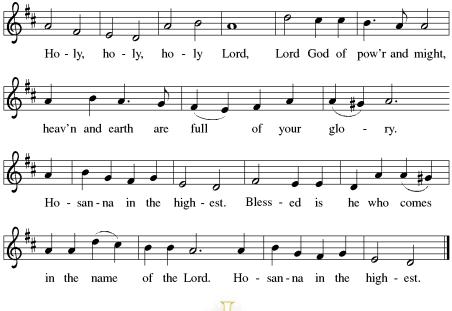
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE (It is indeed right... Join their unending hymn)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages

to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,

through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you and shine your light upon this world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

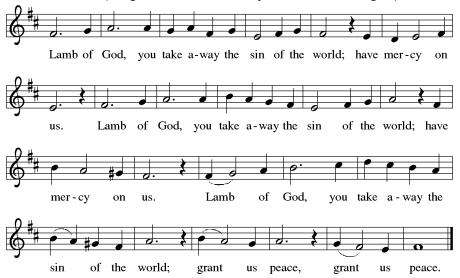
LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold to pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

LAMB OF GOD (sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)



COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Optional responses* **Amen** *or* **Thanks be to God** *or* **Renew us, Lord**

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation and, in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

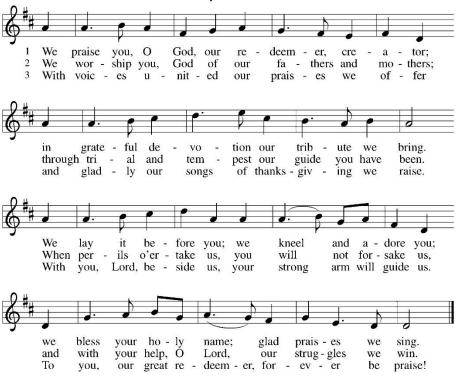
BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \pm give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: We Praise You, O God



Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Henri D'Aubel

Today's altar flowers are in memory of Lydia's 19th birthday and in honor of Nathan's 25th birthday by Neal and Bev Critchlow

The eternal candle is in loving memory of Jerome O'Malley, by Teresa.

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for March

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Camp Lutherlyn. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the *Other* line on your contribution envelope Camp Lutherlyn.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:			
Cole Barkley	Troy Barkley	Luke Clawson	
Roberta Domhoff	Lisa Burr	Gary Checkan	
Pastor Tony Schneck	Berty McMillen	Kim Fields	
David & Betty Wobb	Carmen Morra	Kay Burr	
Amy Grigorovich	Tyanna Rausch	Jerry McElhinny	
Stella Baer	Pete Barry	Debbie Vogel	
David English	Stephanie Hogan	Lily Delaney	
Mike Mashuda	Matthew Haddox	Pat Wolfe	

The families of Velma Cratty Markell, Jim Fogle, Mary Carol Wilson June English, Virginia Frazier Roberts & Jeff MacKay

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:			
MonFri.	4-6:00 pm	After School	
Mon. March 3 rd	6:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting	
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts	
Tues. March 4 th	5:30 pm	Pancake/Sausage Dinner	
	7:00 pm	Talent Show	
Wed. March 5 th	10:00 am	Community Quilting	
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	
Thurs. March 6 th	10:00 am	Quilters Group	
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle	
	6:00 pm	Clothing Cupboard Mtg.	
	7:00 pm	Bible Study	
Fri. March 7 th	12:00 pm	500 Club & Lunch	

<u>Food Drive</u> – In addition to our Monthly Benevolent Cause, we are collecting condiments in March to supplement the stocks in the food cupboard. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Presiding Bishop (ELCA) The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Synodical Bishop (SW PA Synod) The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow **Pastor** The Rev. Brandon Johns Music Director and Organist Marlene Domhoff Kimberly Peaco Office Secretary Sexton Joe Ludwik Acolyte Gus Mossor **Assisting Minister** Karen Ferrari Ine Ludwik Bell Ringer Greeters Barb Graham & Donna Daugherty Lector **Cheryl Thomas** Nursery Melissa Bonicky **Tech Support** Adam Price Ushers Cindy & Tom Ayers

<u>Shrove Tuesday</u> – is on Tuesday. We will have a pancake and sausage dinner beginning at 5:30 pm followed by a talent and jokes show. We will close with the Burning of the Palms Service. Please sign up to perform during our "talent" show, so we know how to plan the evening and have any staging or props ready. If you would like to help make dinner, please see Pastor or Bev Critchlow.

Ash Wednesday – March 5th, 7 pm worship.

<u>Meager Meals</u> – is returning this Lent. On Thursday evenings at 6 pm starting on March 13, we will gather before worship to eat soup and bread together. If you would like to provide soup and/or bread for these meals, there will be a sign-up in Luther Hall. Worship is at 7pm.

<u>Lent Special Offering</u> – Our offerings made during Meager Meals and in the Lent Special Offering envelopes will go to Lutheran Disaster Response and in particular to their aid to people impacted by the devasting wildfires in California.

<u>Fasting for Change</u> – This Lent consider not just the discipline of giving something up, but also giving something toward. As part of your Lenten journey, you are invited to donate the money you would have spent on what you have given up to support Lutheran Service Society. LSS is a collective ministry of our synod and helps people in a variety of ways, including providing adoption and foster care services for children and families in our area. Coin boxes will be available or you are welcome to mark the Other line on your contribution envelope. You may choose to donate weekly, or give the sum of your savings at the end of Lent.

<u>Fish Fry</u> – Friday, March 24^{th} from 4 - 6:30 pm. Sit down as well as take out will be available. This is a free will offering event.

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.

Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

Nursery - is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

Staying in Touch:

Our church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment.